



## **The Friends of Cannizaro Park Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

Registered Charity No. 1160982

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### **Introduction**

Despite the ongoing challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Friends of Cannizaro Park (FoCP) has had another successful year. For a second year, the leadership team has created and followed an annual strategic plan, and this focus has directed organisational resources and led to some notable achievements both in the landscape and in engagement with park visitors.

This report outlines our constitutional framework and charity objectives, and then shares our delivery against these objectives in 2021/22. Following information on Finance and Funding and Structure and People, there is also a preview of our 2022/23 plan.

### **Governance**

The trustees present their Report and the Financial Statements of the FoCP for the year ended 31st March 2022, which comply with the FoCP's Constitution and with applicable law and accounting requirements. In accordance with the FoCP's Rules, the Financial Statements have been examined by a person who is not a trustee or otherwise involved in the charity's administration.

The purposes and administration of the FoCP, which is an unincorporated association, are regulated by its Constitution filed with the Charity Commission; the current version was adopted in 2021. It is managed by trustees, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 11. Trustees are appointed based on their interest in the FoCP's activities and their specific skills and ability to contribute.

Founded in 1997, the formal objects of the FoCP set out in the Constitution are twofold:

(a) to conserve and improve Cannizaro Park located in Wimbledon, London SW19 ('the Park') as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty for the benefit of the community of the London Borough of Merton and the broader community of London and other interested parties;

(b) to do all such things as shall be conducive to the attainment of the above object including: promoting, supporting and assisting in the (i) continuation of the Park's status as a Grade II listed garden; (ii) enhancement, maintenance and upkeep of the Park by the London Borough of Merton.

To focus our work, the FoCP has translated this formal statement into two practical objectives. The first is to support park-owner Merton Council with the maintenance and renewal of the park landscape. The second is to enhance appreciation and enjoyment of the park, by engagement with park visitors and our local community through communications and events. Merton Council supports most hard landscaping requirements in the park and, through its contractor idverde, provides one full-time gardener to maintain the park's thirty four acres.



## **2021/22 Achievements in the Park Landscape**

Once again, the FoCP focussed on realising two significant park landscape renewal projects within the year. In autumn 2021, a new Bog Garden was created in a watery triangle of land above the pond: a stream bed was established, troublesome weeds removed and new planting begun. This area is being seen as an evolving project, with planting to be supplemented as needed in future seasons. Importantly, it allows us to expand the habitat for water-loving plants and wildlife within Cannizaro Park. This consideration for wildlife enhancement now underpins all our park projects.

The new Rose Garden has taken somewhat longer to come to life! Created by FoCP partner Landform UK, the design retained the circular form of the garden, whilst adding a fresh layout which enhanced accessibility and allowed for more modern planting. Particular roses and perennials were chosen to maximise attraction for bees and other insects, while four new benches will allow visitors to sit and enjoy this wonderful new space. Following a delay due to planning timings and Covid-19 resourcing, the Rose Garden was completed in early May 2022.

## **2021/22 Achievements in Enhancing Visitor Appreciation & Enjoyment**

The year saw a major development in our Events programme. The Nature Weekend and a programme of Guided Walks were extremely popular, and the second year of our I-CANN wellbeing festival was also well received. In the autumn, our new Art in the Park event was a big success, recording 2,500 visitors in spite of mixed weather and giving local people of all ages the opportunity to engage with art, recalling the park's historic connections to artistic activity. Our Bridge fund-raising event returned with enthusiastic participation. Across the range of FoCP events in the year, free activities were offered in the form of nature trails, planting and art opportunities, while all paid activities were profitable, being structured to at least breakeven.

Communications with visitors continued to build in 2021/22, following a huge step forward in the previous year. The monthly e-newsletter was again our primary route for news and updates, alongside our Instagram account whose follower-ship increased by 26% from 1,825 to 2,300. Work was begun on a new website, which is intended to provide improved navigation, better visuals and updated information; this project is expected to be completed in June 2022.

## **Finances and Funding**

The FoCP's funds increased by £4,958 during the year, to a total of £36,320 at 31st March 2021, compared with an increase of £6,086 in the previous year. Expenditure in the year included £10,690 for the Rose Garden project and approximately £500 for Bog Garden works. Events made a net profit surplus of £7,621, and the charity's funds were greatly expanded by the generosity of donors, who gave £14,768 in 2021/22. We were particularly grateful for two significant donations which have released other funds for more ambitious future projects.

Under its reserves policy, the FoCP continues to aim for a total of £10,000-£15,000 to be held as reserves, ensuring that there would be sufficient funds to cover expected (a) ongoing annual expenditure in case of a significant reduction in income and (b) upfront costs for major projects before any specific fundraising takes place. As part of our annual review of reserves, the trustees re-committed to reduce the level to the target range over the next two years through the planned park renewal projects. The increase in funds



during 2021/22 came largely through one significant donation, plus a delay to additional park projects due to extended work on the Rose Garden. We anticipate spending down significant funds in 2022/23 on several park projects, as outlined below.

Our longer term funding model helps guide our plans for financing future park improvements, and suggests all planned-for activity in the next two years is feasible. As part of this more detailed fundraising approach, the FoCP also completed Donations and Commemoration guides, which are available on our website.

## **Structure and People**

Trustees: There were three changes during the year. Cathy Townsend was appointed Trustee for Marketing, and Liza Llewellyn appointed Trustee responsible for Events. Jane Watkins became Trustee for Horticulture, with Chris Mountford stepping back from the Trustee team but remaining involved as a horticultural advisor.

At the end of the financial year, the following trustees were in place:

Chair	Catherine Nelson	Secretary	Elizabeth ("Pit") Rink
Treasurer	Simon Ingall	Horticulture	Jane Watkins
Volunteers	Anne Peacock	Membership	Jeremy Lumbers
Legal	Caroline Newsholme	Fundraising	Anna Watkin
Marketing	Cathy Townsend	Events	Liza Llewellyn

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. The trustees are required to manage the FoCP in accordance with its Constitution and to maintain appropriate books and records in order to comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are responsible for safeguarding the FoCP's assets and therefore for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities. They are also responsible for the preparation of an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and accounting requirements.

Membership: Overall levels remained strong, growing 9% across the year to a total of 437 members paying the current relevant rate. Our constitution determines that membership requires full payment of the membership rate prevailing in that year. Following a previous rise in rates and despite notifications, a number of members were still paying at an old rate. While it is not possible to deem this membership, we are grateful for these ongoing contributions which are now recognised as donations - and we thank these long-standing donors.

Volunteers: Our park projects would have been impossible without our extensive and committed volunteer gardening team. Despite the opening up of workplaces after Covid-19, the FoCP maintained its average weekly attendance of 21 people, adding the equivalent of 1.5 additional full-time gardeners to the park. Of the total group of 50 volunteers, many come weekly or biweekly, and others seasonally. The FoCP is lucky to have a wide range of talents among its garden volunteers, who turned their hand to planting trees and repairs to the Aviary, as well as the seasonal round of pruning, watering and weeding.

Our Events and Communications teams are also fully staffed with 15 enthusiastic and thoughtful professionals who are generous with their time. The high quality of execution in both events and marketing is directly attributable to their talent, and their work enables park visitors to understand more about the nature and history of the park, and also to learn about landscape changes brought about by the FoCP.



Partnerships: The FoCP continues to be grateful for the advice and support of the Merton Council Greenspaces team. In 2021/22, Merton Council funded new pathways in the Rose Garden and helped with repairs to the Aviary, as well as ad hoc drainage works. We also work closely with staff at idverde, Merton Council's park contractor, who provided assistance for park projects.

The scope of FoCP activity is expanded and improved by the support of FoCP corporate partners. Hotel du Vin Cannizaro House support the planting of the Sunken Garden and the operation and cleaning of the public toilet block, while landscape designers Landform UK provide project designs and horticultural assistance.

In 2021/22, we are also grateful to a number of event sponsors, including Robert Holmes, Viking, EQ Investors, Hartley Fowler, Peacocks Solicitors, Kings College School, Cygnet Art School, Holden Harper and Artfully Sorted. Our events were further enhanced through the support of a number of individuals and organisations. Nature Weekend raffle prizes were donated by Wimbledon Books and Coombe Stationers. Wimbledon Stables kindly arranged for an appearance by their miniature Shetland pony, Fantastic Mr Fudge. Time and expertise were donated by Adrian Podmore, Clare Million & Rebecca Dunne from the RSPB Richmond & Twickenham Local Group, and Greg Packham led entertaining and engaging tree walks.

Finally, our marketing activity was supported by generous and committed professionals who offered their skills pro-bono: The Cow-Shed Agency and Bright Pink Agency.

### **Plans for 2021/22**

In 2021/22 the FoCP will upweight our landscape activity and re-organise our events programme, to ensure appropriate organisational focus against our core objective of maintaining and renewing the landscape. We plan to complete three soft landscaping projects; these are the replanting of the Pond Border and the Aviary Winter Border, and the extension of the Cherry Walk to create what will become a Jubilee Walk, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In addition, we will be applying for funding for hard landscaping of the Valley and Rear Entrance paths, in order to create an accessible paved loop through the park.

Communications with park visitors will be enhanced by completion of the new website, which will include outstanding images from a local professional photographer. Alongside this, we will continue a strong FoCP-led events programme, and are assigning the leadership of future Art in the Park events to a not-for-profit community interest company, whose profits will benefit the FoCP and arts charities within Merton.

**Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:**



Catherine Nelson, Chair

Date of Signature: 5 May 2022

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2022

2021		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds (Note 3)	Total 2022
£				£
	<b>Income</b>			
4,035.00	Members' subscriptions	4,100.00		4,100.00
21,125.33	Donations (Note 3)	9,767.91	5,000.00	14,767.91
5,321.23	Gift Aid claims	2,020.99		2,020.99
1,609.00	Activities (Note 2)	15,642.47		15,642.47
13.85	Other	122.90		122.90
<b>32,104.41</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>31,654.27</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>36,654.27</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>			
(18,019.94)	Planting and maintenance (Note 3)	(12,662.62)	(5,000.00)	(17,662.62)
(2,721.50)	Permanent items for visitors	(403.14)		(403.14)
(383.70)	Aviary	(3,050.49)		(3,050.49)
(1,255.78)	Activities (Note 2)	(8,021.71)		(8,021.71)
(1,381.00)	IT	(845.00)		(845.00)
(1,724.23)	Communications	(918.56)		(918.56)
(532.37)	Other	(794.94)		(794.94)
<b>(26,018.52)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(26,696.46)</b>	<b>(5,000.00)</b>	<b>(31,696.46)</b>
<b>6,085.89</b>	<b>Movement in funds</b>	<b>4,957.81</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,957.81</b>
25,276.29	Funds brought forward	31,362.18		31,362.18
<b>31,362.18</b>	<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>36,319.99</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,319.99</b>

## Balance Sheet at 31st March 2022

2021		2022
£		£
	<b>Net current assets</b>	
3,743.61	Cash at bank - current account	3,144.15
32,018.57	- deposit account	37,521.97
100.00	PayPal account	94.54
-	Debtors	553.12
(4,500.00)	Creditors (Note 4)	(4,993.79)
<b>31,362.18</b>		<b>36,319.99</b>
<b>31,362.18</b>	<b>Funds (unrestricted)</b>	<b>36,319.99</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1 Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) under the Charities Act 2011 and therefore on an accruals basis, except for subscriptions, donations and Gift Aid claims which are recognised as income when received.

### 2 Results of Activities

2021							2022
ICANN/ calendars/talk £		Art in the Park	Bridge	Guided walks	ICANN	Nature weekend	Total £
1,609.00	Income	9,763.71	2,197.81	1,427.59	1,646.32	607.04	15,642.47
(1,255.78)	Expenditure	(5,532.24)	(73.81)	(638.59)	(1,362.68)	(414.39)	(8,021.71)
353.22	Net result	4,231.47	2,124.00	789.00	283.64	192.65	7,620.76

### 3 Expenditure and donations

Planning and maintenance for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 includes £10,690 for the park's rose garden project. For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, it includes £16,791 for the front entrance project; donations include £12,113 received from the related fundraising campaign.

Restricted funds were in respect of a donation received in December 2021 for future expenditure in support of long-term as well as seasonal planting needs, maintenance, and other costs, and were fully utilised during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Expenditure is shown net of the contribution from the Hotel du Vin for sunken garden bedding and, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, after the reversal of £3,179 accrued at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 no longer required for entrance work.

### 4 Creditors

Creditors at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 comprise an amount due to Merton Council for the sunken garden bedding in 2021 and a prepayment from the Hotel du Vin for the bedding in May 2022.

Approved by the trustees

25th April 2022



Catherine Nelson, Chair

Simon Ingall, Treasurer

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF CANNIZARO PARK

I have examined the Financial Statements of The Friends of Cannizaro Park for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and confirm that they have been correctly prepared and are in accordance with the books and records.

Signed



Colin Price

25th April 2022